

JOSEPHINE L. WEBBER.

JANUARY 19, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1825.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1825) granting a pension to Josephine L. Webber, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 60, this session, and the same fully setting forth the facts is adopted by your committee as their report and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

[Senate Report No. 60, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1825) granting a pension to Josephine L. Webber, have examined the same and report:

William W. Webber served as a private in the United States Marine Corps from December 6, 1873, to June 11, 1874, when honorably discharged on account of heart disease. He was pensioned under the general law for disease of heart at \$6 per month and died March 27, 1901, the cause of his death, as stated by the public record, being general tuberculosis.

Josephine L. Webber, the claimant under this bill, was married to the sailor November 10, 1876. She filed a claim at the Bureau under the general law, which was rejected July 10, 1902, and October 14, 1903, on the ground that sailor's fatal disease was not a result of his pensioned disability, and was not otherwise shown to have been due to his naval service.

An examination of the evidence on file in the Bureau shows that there is considerable conflict regarding the cause of sailor's death. There was no physician in immediate attendance at his death. Of two physicians who treated him shortly before, one testified that the cause of death was general tuberculosis, whereas the other testified that sailor's lungs were not particularly affected, and he was inclined to think that he died in an attack of angina pectoris.

This is borne out by other evidence which shows that the sailor was subject to periodic attacks of what was called heart spasms and by the fact that his death was quite sudden and without warning to those who lived with him. There is, in addition, the evidence of several physicians, filed with the bill, who attended him for several years prior to his death, who state emphatically that they never heard or suspected that he had tuberculosis in any form.

Claimant is shown to be a woman of excellent repute, without property or means of support except what she earns by her daily labor. She cared for the sailor throughout his years of disability, and it is but proper that the doubts in her case should be resolved in her favor. Your committee therefore report the bill back favorably, with a recommendation that it pass,